

MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
May 4, 2009
REGULAR MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in regular session on Monday May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

President Steve Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were present:

Present: Heide, Klinker, Campbell, Cornstuble, Brown, Novak, Downing and Meyer.

Absent: Weast-Williamson

The City Clerk stated that there was a quorum present.

City Clerk Cindy Murray and City Attorney Ed Chosnek were present.

Councilman Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the April, 6, 2009 regular meeting, Councilman Brown seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Clerk stated that there were no Claims, Petitions or Communications.

The Clerk stated the following reports are available in the City Clerk's Office:

Clerks Office Monthly-March 2009

Water Works Department Monthly-March 2009

Water Pollution Control Department Monthly-March 2009

Traffic Improvement Department-Annual Report 2008

Fleet Maintenance Department Monthly-March 2009

There are No Ordinances for Second Reading:

Ordinances for First Reading:

The Clerk read Ordinance 2009-04 (An Ordinance Amending Fees that the City may Charge for Computer Reports, Accident Reports, VIN Checks, and Other Miscellaneous Copies) by title only on first reading. Councilman Campbell moved to replace Ordinance 2005-05 amended in its entirety with Ordinance 2009-04 for passage, Councilman Downing seconded. Ed Chosnek, City Attorney stated some fees from Ordinance 2000-15 are also changed with Ordinance 2009-04. Ordinance 2009-04 passed 7-0 on a roll call vote on first reading.

There are No Resolutions:

Reports of Standing Committees: Transportation and Parking Committee met and will report on their recommendation on naming of streets at the June council meeting.

Reports of Special Committees: None

Report by the Mayor: None

Departmental Updates:

Ted Bumbleburg, Park Superintendent gave the following update:

The parks around Lafayette have started to open. Everything is starting to be cleaned up and mowing has begun for the season. The Columbian Park Zoo has been opened since April 25, 2009 with a few new exhibits. The owl exhibit was finished in 2008 and an enclosed butterfly exhibit will be opening in the next few month(s). There is currently one exhibit under construction and two exhibits will be starting shortly. Currently, the outdoor portion of the river otter exhibit is under construction and should be open in the next couple of months. After the otter exhibit is complete work will be begin on the Australia and outdoor tortoise holding areas. The North American Australia holding building is complete and is currently housing the river otters.

Tropicanoe Cove Pool and the Columbian park rides will be opening Memorial Day weekend with Vinton Pool and Castaway Bay opening the last weekend in May 2009. The water walking program will continue at Tropicanoe Cove as well as working Swim America for offering swimming lessons at Castaway Bay.

The golf course has had three flood events so far in 2009 with a few openings of the course between floods. There are 73 pass holders, 1076 rounds of golf have been played, 15 outings scheduled for this season already. The Family Tee program will still be offered to encourage junior golf and adult interaction with golfers at the course.

There were nearly 500 applications for seasonal hiring for approximately 150 positions. As of right now, the Park's Department is continually taking applications. The Loeb Advisory Committee has been meeting for the last couple of months with the various user groups.

Andy Milam, Information Technology Director gave the following update:

The IT department is currently involved in several projects and I would like to update you on a few of them. April 13th we began the "go live" process with a brand new software package for the Engineering office. The package is called "Community Development" and is written in Microsoft's dot net platform.

The package allows our Engineering office to issue & track permits, inspections, code violations, plan review and parcel information in one database. The information will be available to any City office that has a need for it. Eventually it will integrate with our other City government software such as Utility billing and finance. The implementation process prior to the "go live" involved several weeks with our software vendor On-Site which we coordinated.

New in 2009 we have fiber optic cable to our Facilities department. This has eliminated the monthly recurring costs associated with the T1 we had in place and increased the data pipe size. That leaves us with only two locations on our fiber radar, McAllister center and the Street/Sanitation/Traffic department.

New in 2009, we implemented a Spam control and email security solution. This is a hosted solution which means the software doesn't reside on our servers. It has not only eliminated SPAM in our environment, it has eliminated a lot of configuration and administration for the IT staff in the fight against SPAM. This is our second hosted application and we see the merit of exploring more of them as they become available.

Also new in 2009 we worked with our time and attendance software provider as they converted our software and database to their SQL platform. Prior to this conversion the software had

become very unstable due to the database size. Although the conversion was painful to all involved, the new version is performing as expected and is a big improvement.

We continuously try to find ways to use technology and reduce costs. At the Mayor's request we recently began seeking a paperless payroll solution. Since our HR & payroll software provider didn't offer an affordable solution, we looked for an alternative. We found a partner to develop a web portal which allows employees and pensioners to view their payroll information online.

We're still in the testing phase and plan to have all existing direct deposit employees using the system by July 1, 2009 with the remaining folks on by Jan 1, 2010.

A project scheduled to start today is the conversion of our door access control system. The existing door access control software is unstable and unreliable. By converting to a Keyscan brand system in City hall, we will gain reliability and will be integrated with the door access control system used at our water plant. This integration will eliminate some obsolete hardware and will utilize our network for communication.

As you know, we have been streaming the audio portion of our BOW and City Council meetings live online for over two years. We'll soon be streaming the audio and video of these meetings live online which will allow everyone with internet access to not only listen, but also view our meetings live.

We continue our mission of integration, consolidation and standardization. Whenever we look at new licensing, applications or hardware, we always try to maximize the benefit by examining the potential use by everyone in every department. For example, by standardizing application databases we are able to reduce cost and IT administration. We have 70 databases on one SQL database server.

The IT Department fielded 2,646 requests for service in 2008 representing a 21% increase over 2007. We have fielded over 900 requests so far in 2009 so we are on pace for a similar annual total this year. Our support role has expanded to include several outside agencies. We now support FOCPS, LUEA, WREC & LNHS. Each is a small agency, but each has their own unique setup and challenges.

Miscellaneous and New Business: None

Reports of Councilman: None

Public Comment:

Pearl Speakman, 923 So. 22nd Street commented on the time of the County Commissioner's meetings. He appreciated the Department heads coming in after hours for City Council meetings. He also suggested the Council talk to the legislators to seek a fee for employee labor that is generated from public records requests.

Earl Stanton, 1013 Elizabeth Street had several comments regarding a handicap sidewalk ramp that needs repair. He asked several questions regarding the water billing and electrical codes on rental properties.

Perry Barbee, 1714 Union Street requested that everyone participate in the Letter Carriers Food drive Saturday, May 9, 2009

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Campbell moved to adjourn, Councilwoman Novak seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Murray, City Clerk

Complete audio of meeting available in the City Clerks office or at www.lafayette.in.gov